

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI

SUBJECT: NAVSTAR GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) -
PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

REF: A) USNATO 3428 B) USNATO 5469

1. WE CAN APPRECIATE CONCERN ABOUT PARTICIPATION
OF NON-NATO COUNTRIES IN THE NATO SUBGROUP ON NAVSTAR
GPS. OUR MAIN MOTIVATION FOR SUPPORTING INCLUSION
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN THIS SUBGROUP WAS
TO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES AND ELIMINATE DUPLICATION
OF MEETINGS WITH OUR ALLIES.

2. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE ADVANTAGES RESULTING FROM
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AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPATION, AS DETAILED
BY THE UK IN PARA 4 OF REF A., I.E., INCREASE
STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY; INCREASE MARKET AND
REDUCE COST; PROVIDE POSSIBILITY OF TEST AND
MONITORING FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE,
THEREBY ENHANCING SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS.

3. WE FEEL THESE OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED BY THE US WORKING BILATERALLY WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. FYI: WE SUGGEST THE BILATERAL APPROACH,

RATHER THAN THE QUADRILATERAL (US, UK, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND), SINCE THE US IS ALREADY DISCUSSING NAVSTARS BILATERALLY WITH THE UK (AS WELL AS CANADA), AND ALSO IN THE NATO SUBGROUP. TO NOW OPEN A QUADRILATERAL SERIES OF MEETINGS TO INCLUDE THE UK WOULD SIMPLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FORUMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM 2 TO 3, AND ACCOMPLISH LITTLE ELSE. END FYI.

4. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT, THE NATO SUBGROUP ON NAVSTAR GPS WOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED.

5. WE RECOMMEND YOU DISCUSS THIS PROPOSED BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UK. IF THE UK IS AGREEABLE, YOU SHOULD PROPOSE IT TO LUNS.

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Message Attributes

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